



# NEWS

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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## **ART AND CONSERVATION GO HAND-IN-HAND AT UPCOMING FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST**

### **First-ever Workshops Held for Aspiring Contestants**

Nearly 500 artists from 47 states will compete in the 47th annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest, seeking the instant fame and fortune that comes from winning the only art competition run by the Federal Government.

The contest, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be held October 15-17, 1996, at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. The winning entry will be featured on the 1997-98 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (or Duck Stamp), which raises money to acquire waterfowl habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

"The Duck Stamp Contest is one of the highlights of the year in the world of wildlife art," said John Rogers, the Fish and Wildlife Service's acting director. "But the Duck Stamp is far more than just an art contest. It is the means by which millions of acres of vital wetlands have been conserved over the past 62 years."

This year's contest is being held in conjunction with National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 5-13. Many of the 511 national wildlife refuges across the country will be holding special events open to the public to celebrate the 92-million-acre system, the world's largest collection of lands set aside for wildlife conservation.

### **First-ever Workshops Held for Aspiring Contestants**

The proverb, "One picture is worth a thousand words," took on new meaning this year as staff from the Federal Duck Stamp Program Office hit the road to offer tips to artists wanting to learn the secrets to winning the Duck Stamp Contest.

In a nationwide pilot program, workshops for aspiring contestants were held in Old Forge, New York; Big Timber, Montana; and Coupeville, Washington. The Duck Stamp Office staff brought the top 20 paintings from the 1995 contest. Winning Duck Stamp artists Dan Smith and Neal Anderson, together with well-known wildlife artist Wayne Trimm, presented sessions on techniques and designs that may help turn good paintings into good stamps.

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Enthusiastic participants praised the workshops. Of the 96 artists who came to the 3 workshops, 62 have entered this year's contest. The Duck Stamp Office staff will monitor the progress of their paintings throughout the contest.

The workshops were sponsored by art centers in the three locations. Similar workshops are already being planned for 1997 and will involve more winning Duck Stamp artists.

#### 1996 Contest Information

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is free and open to the public. This year, the 477 entries will be displayed for viewing and judging at the Interior Department auditorium, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC, at the following times:

Tuesday, October 15	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Viewing
Wednesday, October 16	10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Viewing/Judging
Thursday, October 17	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Viewing/Judging*

\* The winner will be announced at approximately 12:30 p.m.

During the contest, a wide variety of Duck Stamp licensed products, ranging from limited edition collectors' knives to posters, T-shirts, mugs, calendars, caps, and other items featuring Duck Stamp designs, will be available for sale in the C Street lobby of the Interior Department. Part of the proceeds from the sale of these products also is used for wetlands acquisition.

The winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest receives no cash award from the Federal Government; however, the contest is highly competitive because winning boosts the reputation of even a previously unknown artist to the top of his or her profession. And winning artists stand to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of limited edition prints of their Duck Stamp design.

Each year, the Duck Stamp Office publishes a list of the species that can be depicted so that, by the year 2002, every species of waterfowl will have been featured on a Duck Stamp at least once. This year, the eligible species are black duck, Canada goose, pintail, greater scaup, and green-winged teal. Nearly half of this year's entries are paintings of Canada geese.

The 1997-98 Federal Duck Stamp will go on sale nationwide July 1, 1997. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older must purchase the stamp, which currently sells for \$15 at many U.S. Post Offices, national wildlife refuges, and sporting goods stores.

Since 1934 when the Duck Stamp program began, sales have reached half a billion dollars, 98 percent of which has been used to acquire more than 4.5 million acres of wetlands habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. These lands support not only waterfowl but hundreds of other plants and animals.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency with responsibility for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages 511 national wildlife refuges covering 92 million acres, as well as 72 national fish hatcheries.

The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, stocks recreational fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and assists foreign governments in their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that funnels Federal excise taxes on angling and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies. This program is a cornerstone of the Nation's wildlife management efforts, funding fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, shooting ranges, and related projects across America.



# **FACTS**

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1996 Federal Duck Stamp Contest**

### **Contest Statistics**

Contest Entries:	477	
Male Artists	361	75.68%
Female Artists	116	24.32%

### **Medium**

Water Color	43	9.01%
Oil	113	23.69%
Acrylic	248	51.99%
Scratch Board	4	0.84%
Other	69	14.47%

### **Species Portrayed\***

Black Duck	41	8.60%
Canada Goose	207	43.40%
Greater Scaup	26	5.45%
Green-winged Teal	101	21.17%
Pintail	102	21.38%

\* Contest guidelines issued annually designate certain species of North American waterfowl as eligible for portrayal so that all species will eventually appear on a Federal Duck Stamp.

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### Artists by State

Alabama	12	1.55%	Nebraska	4	0.84%
Alaska	11	1.10%	Nevada	6	1.26%
Arizona	7	1.32%	New Hampshire	2	0.42%
Arkansas	7	0.44%	New Jersey	14	2.94%
California	29	7.73%	New Mexico	2	0.42%
Colorado	16	3.53%	New York	26	5.45%
Connecticut	3	0.66%	North Carolina	8	1.68%
Delaware	3	0.44%	North Dakota	3	0.63%
Florida	25	5.24%	Ohio	17	3.56%
Georgia	7	1.47%	Oklahoma	7	1.47%
Idaho	6	1.26%	Oregon	7	1.47%
Illinois	7	1.47%	Pennsylvania	12	2.52%
Indiana	9	1.89%	South Carolina	6	1.26%
Iowa	12	2.52%	South Dakota	6	1.26%
Kansas	3	0.63%	Tennessee	7	1.47%
Kentucky	5	1.05%	Texas	19	3.98%
Louisiana	9	1.89%	Utah	5	1.05%
Maryland	16	3.35%	Vermont	1	0.21%
Massachusetts	12	2.52%	Virginia	12	2.52%
Michigan	13	2.73%	Washington	14	2.94%
Minnesota	48	10.06%	Wisconsin	22	4.61%
Mississippi	4	0.84%	Wyoming	1	0.21%
Missouri	6	1.26%			
Montana	6	1.26%			